

Message Text

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64

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 227063

FOL REPEAT STATE 227063 SENT ACTION TOKYO EI BRUSSELS

INFO BONN BRUSSELS THE HAGUE LONDON LUXEMBOURG

ROME STOCKHOLM PARIS SEP 23

QTE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, JA

SUBJECT: RUMORED JAPANESE STEEL CARTEL FOR EXPORTS TO EC

REF : TOKYO 8669, BRUSSELS 6505

1. DURING RECENT INFORMAL MEETING WITH TAD YAMADA OF
NIPPON STEEL, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE KATZ
RAISED THE MATTER OF PRESS STORIES WHICH HAD REPORTED THERE
WAS SOME SORT OF "VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT" BETWEEN
THE EC AND JAPAN, WHICH LIMITED JAPANESE STEEL EXPORTS TO
COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES. YAMADA REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO
SUCH AGREEMENT AND THAT THERE WERE NO LONGER ANY JAPANESE
STEEL EXPORTER ASSOCIATIONS (CARTELS) WHICH WERE PERMITTED
TO SPEAK FOR THE INDUSTRY AND TO ENTER INTO SUCH

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AGREEMENTS. THE STEEL EXPORTER CARTELS, WHICH HAD BEEN
FORMED WITH THE SPECIAL PERMISSION OF THE GOJ FAIR TRADE
COMMISSION (FTC) IN 1969 TO ADMINISTER THE VRA ARRANGE-
MENTS, HAD ALL BEEN DISSOLVED UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE

VRA AT THE END OF 1974. HE STATED THAT A "VRA TYPE" AGREEMENT NOW WOULD VIOLATE FTC RULES.

2. YAMADA DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT EC INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (E.G., JACQUES FERRY) HAD INFORMALLY POINTED TO EC ANNOUNCED CUT-BACKS IN STEEL PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS WITH

THE INTIMATION THAT JAPANESE EXPORTS OUGHT TO BE CUT BACK ACCORDINGLY. SINCE JAPANESE EXPORTS TO THE EC FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975 RAN WELL AHEAD OF SHIPMENTS IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1974, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THE EXPORT FIGURES REVEAL FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1975.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ROBINSON

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